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8 THINGS TO KNOW

Nobel, Pulitzer-winning author Toni Morrison dead at 88

Morrison was 39 when her first novel, "The Bluest Eye," was published.

REUTERS

U.S. author Toni Morrison, whose 1987 novel "Beloved" about a runaway slave won a Pulitzer Prize and contributed to a body of work that made her the first black woman to be presented the Nobel Prize in Literature, has died at the age of 88, her publisher said on Tuesday.

Paul Bogaards, a spokesman for the publishing company Alfred A. Knopf, announced the death but did not provide an immediate cause. The Washington Post said she died on Monday at a New York hospital.

Morrison was a commercial as well as critical success, drawing praise for writing in a vivid, lyrical style while assessing issues of race, gender and love in American society.

"Beloved" was set during the U.S. Civil War and based on a true story of a woman who killed her 2-year-old daughter to spare her from slavery. The character, Sethe, was captured before she could kill herself and the child's ghost visits her mother.

Morrison told NEA Arts magazine in 2015 that she had already written a third of the book before deciding to bring in the ghost to address the morality of whether the mother was right to kill the child.

The New York Times called the novel's death scene "an event so brutal and disturbing that it appears to warp time before and after into a single, unwavering line of fate. It will destroy one family's dream of safety and freedom; it will haunt an entire community for generations and ... it will reverberate in readers' minds long after they have finished this book."

The book was made into a movie starring Oprah Winfrey, who co-produced it, and Danny Glover. Winfrey was one of Morrison's biggest fans and featured four of her books in the influential book club portion of her daytime talk show.

"She was our conscience. Our seer. Our truth-teller," Winfrey said in an Instagram post. "She was a magician with language, who understood the Power of words. She used them to roil us, to wake us, to educate us and help us grapple with our deepest wounds and try to comprehend them."

"Beloved" was part of a trilogy that Morrison said looked at love through the perspective of black history. "Jazz," published in 1992, was about a love triangle during the Harlem Renaissance in New York in the 1920s; and the third book, "Paradise," published in 1997, told of women in a small, predominantly black town.

> **"She was our conscience. Our seer. Our truth-teller."**
>
> Oprah Winfrey

"VISIONARY FORCE"

In honoring her with its literature prize in 1993, the Nobel organization said Morrison's novels were "characterized by visionary force and poetic import" while giving "life to an essential aspect of American reality."

Morrison was 39 years old when her first novel, "The Bluest Eye" (1970) about a black girl who wanted blue eyes, was published. After working as an editor at a publishing house, she told a panel discussion in 2016 that she wanted to "write the book that I really and truly wanted to read."

"I read all the time but I was never in those books," she said. "Or if I was, it was as a joke, or as some anecdote that explained something about the main character without the main character looking like me."

She followed that with "Song of Solomon" (1977), which won the National Book Critics Circle Award, "Tar Baby" (1981) and "God Help the Child" (2015). Her nonfiction works included an essay collection, a book of literary criticism titled "Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination" (1992) and editing anthologies.

Her 1986 play "Dreaming Emmett" was about Emmett Till, whose lynching in Mississippi in 1955 was a key moment in the U.S. civil rights movement.

Morrison was born on Feb. 18, 1931, in Lorain, Ohio, and grew up in a family with a storytelling tradition. She graduated from Howard University in Washington, and earned a master's degree from Cornell University.

Morrison, whose only marriage ended in divorce, taught in colleges and was an editor at the publisher Random House before writing her own books. Later she would teach at Princeton University.

In 2012 Morrison was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama, who called her a "national treasure." REUTERS

FBI opens domestic terror probe into Gilroy shooting

2 The FBI has opened a domestic terrorism investigation into a California mass shooting by a 19-year-old gunman who killed three people at a food festival last week, officials said on Tuesday. Authorities have said they still do not know what motivated Santino William Legan, 19, to fire an assault-style rifle into a crowd in Gilroy, Calif., on July 28. His victims included a 6-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl. Police officers exchanged gunfire with Legan, who was wearing a bullet-resistant vest, and struck him, Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee said at a news conference on Tuesday. Legan killed himself with a gunshot to the head. Investigators have discovered he kept a list that appeared to have targets of violence, John Bennett, the FBI agent in charge in the San Francisco office, told reporters. "The shooter appeared to have an interest in varying, competing violent ideologies," Bennett said. REUTERS

Disney reports earnings fall as streaming costs rise

3 Walt Disney Co. reported a steeper earnings decline than Wall Street expected on Tuesday as the company, boosted by a blockbuster movie slate led by "Avengers: Endgame," the highest-grossing movie of all time, poured money into its ambitious plunge into streaming media and began folding in assets purchased from Twenty-First Century Fox. Shares of Disney, which had risen 27 percent this year and hit an all-time high last week, dropped as much as 5 percent in after-hours trading, to $135. Disney, the owner of ESPN, a movie studio and theme parks, is investing heavily in digital media platforms to challenge the dominance of Netflix Inc. Its biggest digital bet, a family-friendly subscription service called Disney+, is scheduled to debut in November. "Nothing is more important to us than getting this right," Disney Chief Executive Bob Iger said. REUTERS

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New York fashion grandee Barneys files for bankruptcy protection

Locations in Philadelphia, Chicago and Seattle among those set to close.

U.S. department store operator and fashionista favorite Barneys New York Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection on Tuesday and put itself up for sale, underscoring how even luxury retailers are struggling to freshen their image and compete with online rivals.

The nearly century-old chain, best known for swanky shop windows on New York's Madison Avenue, long enjoyed a loyal following among socialites and a privileged reputation as a retailer that could make or break a brand.

But it has also suffered, like peers across the bricks-and-mortar retail landscape, in part as consumers flock to online alternatives. In addition, a recent spike in store rent left Barneys reeling and scrambling to find a buyer.

Barneys said in a statement that it had now secured $75 million in new financing from affiliates of Hilco Global and the Gordon Brothers Group to help it keep operating while under bankruptcy protection.

$75M

Barneys said in a statement that it had now secured $75 million in new financing from affiliates of Hilco Global and the Gordon Brothers Group to help it keep operating while under bankruptcy protection.

The retailer added that it would focus on key locations, and close major stores in Chicago, Las Vegas, Philadelphia and Seattle, along with five smaller concept shops and seven Barneys Warehouse locations, where it sold more heavily discounted merchandise.

Barneys plans to keep its main store in Manhattan, a sprawling nine-floor building, open along with four other locations. Rent at the Madison Avenue flagship store in particular posed a problem for the cash-strapped firm, rising to roughly $30 million from $16 million.

Reuters reported in July that Barneys was exploring its options, including a bankruptcy filing, as a result.

Barneys executives and board members "have taken decisive action by entering into a court-supervised process, which will provide the company the necessary tools to conduct a sale process, review our current leases and optimize our operations," said CEO Daniella Vitale.

Peter Knight-Barnard, a retiree now based in Italy, recalled going to Barneys in the 1980s and '90s when it was "the spot."

"Just walking around with one of their shopping bags in those days was a status symbol," the 69-year-old said. "It was a big Saturday scene with all the great and good from Wall Street milling around."

COMPETITION

The retail industry as a whole is grappling with e-commerce competition from the likes of Amazon. In the realm of high fashion, luxury sites such as Richemont-owned Net-A-Porter or Farfetch have been gaining ground, too.

Bricks-and-mortars stores have had to add entertainment value to lure shoppers, with art installations or concerts, as well as trying to secure exclusive clothing launches.

And while it is shaking up its approach on the shop floor, Barneys' now faces the challenge of keeping brands on board.

Italy's Moncler, for instance, whose luxury down coats usually fetch well over $1,000, said it began to postpone deliveries of some its latest collections as early as June. REUTERS

The Barneys New York sign is seen in a display window outside the luxury department store in New York. REUTERS

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SEPTA trolley. DEREK YU IMAGES

SEPTA trolley tunnel closed for Trolley Tunnel Blitz

The tunnel will close Friday at 10 p.m. and reopen Aug. 19.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

It's shaping up to be a rough month for Philly commuters. First, the Chestnut Street Bridge shuts down for a year-long repair project, and soon SEPTA will close down a trolley tunnel for 'round-the-clock maintenance work known as the "Trolley Tunnel Blitz."

More than 60,000 riders will be impacted as SEPTA closes down the tunnel spanning from 13th Street to 40th Street starting at 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9, until 4 a.m. Monday, Aug. 19. During this time, SEPTA trolley Routes 10, 11, 13, 34 and 36 will not be in operation. SEPTA reported that service will start and end at 40th and Market streets, and they will use a different route, which will connect to the Market-Frankford Line. Riders can get on at the Market-Frankford Line at 40th Street Station and get in and out of Center City.

This is the seventh year SEPTA has held the Trolley Tunnel Blitz. During the closure, SEPTA's teams will be working nonstop for maintenance and construction to improve the trolley system. The transit agency opts to perform the repair blitz during the summer because ridership is at its lowest.

SEPTA General Manager Jeffrey Knueppel said, "The Trolley Blitzes allow our crews to get productive work windows to complete necessary repairs and improvements they otherwise would not be able to because the tunnel is used 24 hours a day."

> **"The Trolley Blitzes allow our crews to get productive work windows to complete necessary repairs and improvements they otherwise would not be able to because the tunnel is used 24 hours a day."**
> SEPTA General Manager Jeffrey Knueppel

Additionally, Knueppel said, "The program we have implemented over the past six summers has vastly improved the tunnel's infrastructure and greatly increased trolley service reliability through the tunnel."

SEPTA is doing a lot to improve the system, including replacing a curved rail east and west of 33rd Street Station, track repairs at the 37th Street east platform, replacing the wiring to the tunnel on the west side of the tunnel between 19th and 22nd streets, and fixing the crossing points of two rails at Ludlow.

According to SEPTA, additional work that will be performed during this closure includes: "Installation of new energy-efficient lighting within the tunnel between 36th Street and 37th Street stations; performing heavy maintenance tasks at all stations including graffiti removal, tile repair, painting, cleaning the water drainage system, trackbed cleaning and heavy cleaning at all stations; testing emergency generators and lighting throughout the tunnel; addressing water leaks at stations and in the tunnel through crack-injection and other rehabilitation improvements; inspecting, testing and maintaining track circuits and other signal aspects (visual indication) at portals and throughout the tunnel."

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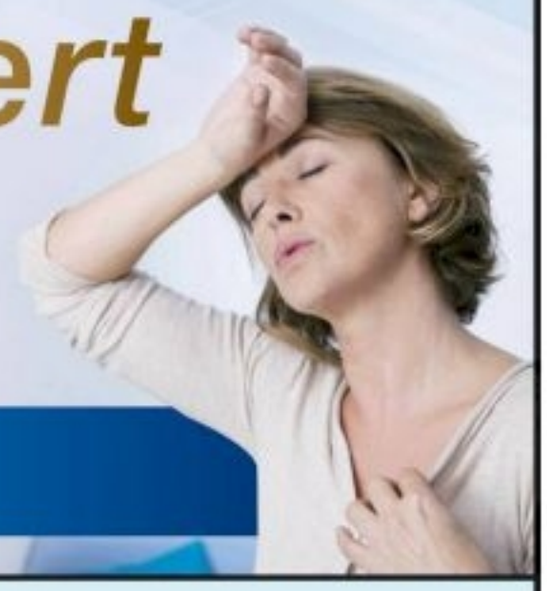

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President Trump plans to visit El Paso as Hispanic border city mourns

The expected visit on Wednesday drew mixed reactions.

People pay their respects three days after a mass shooting in El Paso, Texas. REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump was expected on Wednesday to visit El Paso, a heavily Hispanic Texas border city reeling after a shooting rampage in a crowded Walmart left 22 people dead in an attack that appeared to have been racially motivated.

Trump's planned visit comes as Democrats are accusing him of stoking racial divisions with his strong anti-immigration rhetoric, even after he said that Americans must "condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy."

Word that Trump was planning to travel to El Paso angered left-lending activists who gathered for a vigil for the victims on Monday evening. Some partly blamed the president for the bloodshed.

"He's complicit in this violence and all the terror that we're seeing," Rachel Cheek, 26, one activist, told Reuters.

A crowd of several hundred classmates, teachers and relatives filled a high school football stadium in the El Paso suburb of Horizon on Monday evening for a memorial service honoring the youngest of the 22 people slain.

El Paso Mayor Dee Margo, a Republican who holds a nonpartisan office, said on Monday that he supported a visit from Trump.

"This is not a political visit," Margo said. "He is president of the United States. So, in that capacity, I will fulfill my obligations as mayor of El Paso to meet with the president and discuss whatever our needs are in this community."

The rampage, along with a mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio, that left nine people dead 13 hours later, has also touched off a new furor over gun violence in the United States. Trump, who also plans to visit Dayton, proposed tighter monitoring of the internet, mental health reform and wider use of the death penalty following the incidents.

As of Tuesday morning, Patrick Crusius, 21, faces a single count of capital murder after authorities say he opened fire with a rifle on Walmart shoppers, many of them bargain hunting for back-to-school supplies, then surrendered to officers who confronted him outside the store. A Texas prosecutor said the state will seek the death penalty against Crusius if he is convicted.

Crusius made an initial court appearance early Sunday, and San Antonio attorney Mark Stevens has been appointed to the case by the court, online court records showed.

Calls to the El Paso court, state prosecutors and the defense attorney were not immediately returned.

Authorities have cited a lengthy anti-immigrant manifesto, apparently posted online by the suspect before the Saturday morning shooting in the heavily Hispanic border city, which they said was evidence the bloodshed was racially motivated.

Eight of those killed in the attack were Mexican citizens, according to the Mexican government.

The four-page statement uploaded to 8chan, a largely unmoderated online message board often used by extremists, called the Walmart attack "a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Saturday's rampage appeared to be a hate crime and federal prosecutors called it domestic terrorism. REUTERS

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Urged to 'do something,' Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine backs 'red flag' law

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on Tuesday proposed a "red flag" law that would take guns away from people who may harm themselves or others, responding to pressure for him to "do something" after a mass shooting in Dayton that killed nine people.

The Republican governor said he would ask the General Assembly to pass a law that would allow judges to temporarily confiscate guns from individuals believed by police or their relatives to be a danger, and to provide them with mental health treatment.

"We have an obligation to each other," DeWine said at a news briefing. "If someone is showing signs of trouble or problems, we must help and we must not turn away."

DeWine spoke three days after a gunman wearing body armor and a mask opened fire in a crowded Dayton, Ohio, neighborhood known for its nightlife early on Sunday. It was the second deadly U.S. mass shooting in less than a day.

The governor, who was endorsed by the National Rifle Association when he was elected last year, was heckled on Sunday night as he spoke at a vigil for the victims of the rampage. Protesters repeatedly chanted "Do something!", a reference to perceived state and federal inaction to curb U.S. gun violence.

"Some chanted 'Do something!' and they're absolutely right," DeWine said on Tuesday. "We must do something, and that is exactly what we're going to do."

Gun control is one of the most divisive issues in American politics. Supporters of tighter restrictions say they are necessary to staunch a U.S. epidemic of gun violence, while opponents believe more controls would violate gun ownership rights under the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment.

DeWine, who took office in January, previously expressed support for "red flag" laws after a deadly Passover shooting at a California synagogue in April.

> **"We have an obligation to each other. If someone is showing signs of trouble or problems, we must help and we must not turn away."**
>
> **Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine**

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have "red flag" laws on the books, according to Giffords, a gun-control advocacy group. Most of the jurisdictions are under Democratic control.

DeWine's proposal could meet resistance in the Republican-controlled Ohio Senate and House of Representatives.

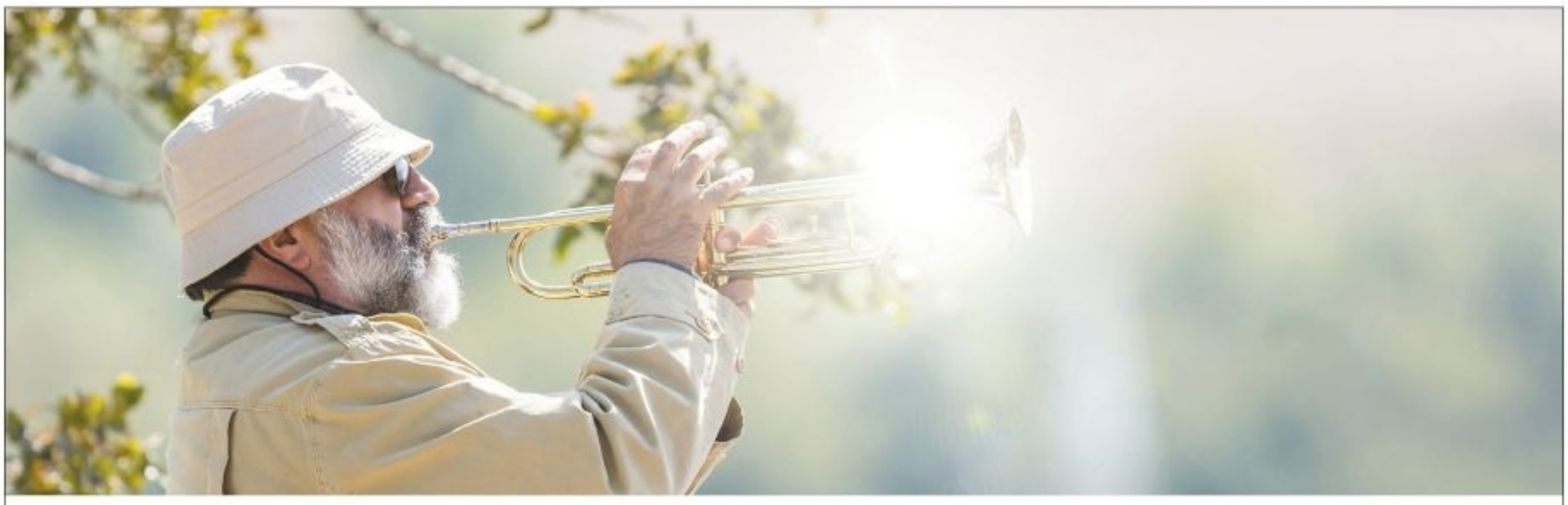
In an address to the nation on Monday, President Donald Trump also backed laws to allow guns to be taken away from dangerous individuals. He also proposed tighter monitoring of the internet, mental health reform and wider use of the death penalty in response to the two mass shootings over the weekend that left 32 people dead in Texas and Ohio.

The president and first lady Melania Trump will visit Dayton on Wednesday, Vice President Mike Pence said on Tuesday.

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, a Democrat, said she would welcome the president but plans to tell Trump "how unhelpful he's been on this," referring to Trump's remarks on Monday about ways to curb gun violence.

"Yesterday, his comments weren't really helpful around the issue of guns," Whaley told reporters. REUTERS

Ohio Gov. DeWine reacts as vigil attendees shout "Do something!" while he was speaking at a vigil at the scene after a mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio. REUTERS



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Please tell me I am not the only one! Why does misplacing my phone make me feel like the world's biggest loser? I call it from my landline, but of course it's on vibrate...or the battery's dead. And when someone tries to calm my meltdown with "Where did you have it last?" I want to answer, "If I knew that, I wouldn't be looking for it!"

— **Anonymous,** *Metro New York reader*

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Aries Embrace life and try something new. A lifestyle change will lift your spirits and give you a new lease on life. Romance is encouraged.

Taurus A change regarding a partnership or an agreement will catch you off-guard. Don't act in haste. Consider your options and counter with something you feel is fair.

Gemini Keep the peace by refusing to let anyone meddle in your personal affairs. Protect your privacy, loved ones and assets. Romance will enhance a meaningful relationship.

Cancer Someone you encounter will change the way you see or do things. An offer will grab your interest, but you must check to make sure it's legitimate.

Leo Be careful when dealing with sensitive issues. Someone you love or work alongside will be touchy if you take more than you give. Aim for equality, peace and love, not for chaos.

Virgo Network, get involved and make your actions count. The more productive you are, the less time you will have to get involved in situations that aren't good for you.

Libra Don't rely on others. If you want something done, do it yourself. Look for positive opportunities and find out how you can turn a skill or service into a lucrative affair.

Scorpio If you share your emotions, be prepared to put up with the backlash that follows. Communication will be necessary, but how you respond will make a difference.

Sagittarius Rely on what you know, whom you can trust and how best to get what you want. A personal contract, legal matter or financial issue will need your undivided attention.

Capricorn Put your heart and soul into whatever you decide to take on. Whether it's how you earn or handle money, deal with essential partnerships or run your home, do it with finesse.

Aquarius Look for opportunities to advance. Keep an open discussion going with anyone who will be affected by the decisions you make. Romance is in the stars.

Pisces You'll have some exciting ideas, but you must consider the possible consequences of putting them in action. Moderation is key. EUGENIA LAST

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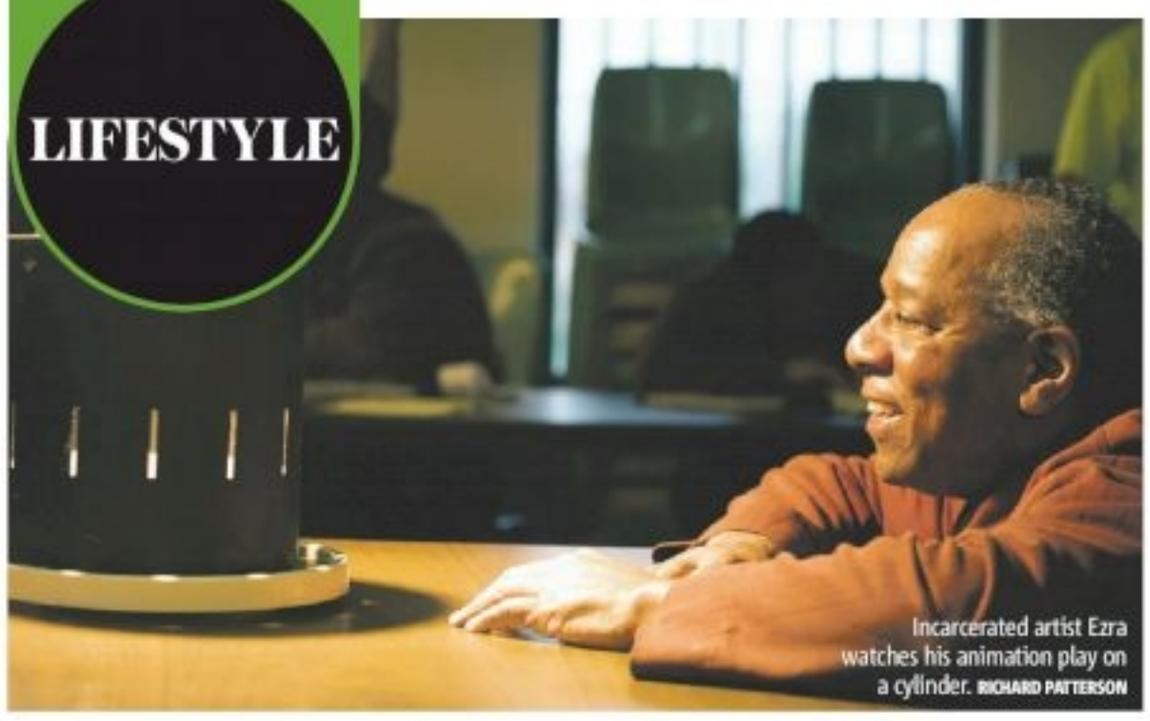

Incarcerated artist Ezra watches his animation play on a cylinder. RICHARD PATTERSON

Shining a light

Eastern State Penitentiary gives an inside look at inmates' lives with "Hidden Lives Illuminated."

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

"Hidden Lives Illuminated" starts Aug.15. LIVING CONDITION LLC

Eastern State Penitentiary recently announced its latest project that will allow Philadelphians a rare inside look at the country's correctional system through the eyes of those who know it best — currently incarcerated inmates.

From Aug. 15-Sept. 12, a total of 20 animated films created by artists at the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Chester and Philadelphia's Riverside Correctional Facility for Women will be screened on the Penitentiary's walls using a concert-grade digital projector. Each film was created, directed, narrated and animated by the incarcerated artists, and each one tells a story through their own eyes.

Each 40-minute film will be screened three times, at 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. The showings are viewable for all ages and will be broken up into four themed weeks: "The View From Inside," "Criminal Justice Today," "Family and Community Impact" and "Restorative Justice." Each week will hold five short-films from the artists, plus additional films from filmmakers close to the criminal justice system or communities impacted by high rates of incarceration.

"Eastern State Penitentiary is committed to deepening the conversation about criminal justice reform in the United States. With "Hidden Lives Illuminated," we can structure these conversations around the literal voices of men and women living inside prisons today," said Sean Kelley, Senior Vice President and Project Lead in a release. "Prisons are some of the most inaccessible spaces in America. After all, prison walls don't just keep incarcerated people in, they keep the public out. We want to use our wall to illuminate the lives of people living inside these institutions that are so often misunderstood, or worse, ignored."

According to the release, "Hidden Lives Illuminated" has been in development for three years. Teaching artists employed by Eastern State Penitentiary have been leading classes in storytelling, screen writing, narration and animation inside Pennsylvania correctional institutions while gearing up for the unveiling this summer. The project was originally inspired by "Freedom/Time," orchestrated by artist Damon Locks and developed with the Jane Addams Hull House and Prison. "Hidden Lives" truly gives incarcerated artists a voice and offers the public a chance to witness stories that simply need to be told.

Along with showing the insightful films, each evening throughout the program will also feature presentations from scholars, community leaders, activists, artists, victims' advocates, and elected officials; hands-on activities for families to reflect and to open up discussions; other programs highlighting art-making, letter writing, lightning talks from leaders in criminal justice reform, restorative justice, reentry and much more.

On the last night, Sept. 12, a festival will also be held where all 20 short films will be screened back to back while a documentary film about the artists created by Media in Neighborhoods Group (MING) will play inside the Penitentiary's cellblocks.

For more information on "Hidden Lives Illuminated" visit HiddenLives.org. For more information on the Eastern State Penitentiary (2027 Fairmount Ave.) visit easternstate.org

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If you can't stand the heat...

Chefs Bobby Flay and Michael Symon give us the scoop on their new barbecue competition show on Food Network.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Bobby Flay ROBERT GOMEZ/ FOOD NETWORK

This summer just got a lot saucier. Food Network's latest show featuring culinary icon Bobby Flay (BF) and Iron Chef Michael Symon (MS) recently premiered on the food-focused network, and the competition is just starting to heat up. "BBQ Brawl: Flay vs. Symon" features four episodes of intense rounds where competitors will smoke, sauce, grill and dry rub their way to the top while being mentored by the biggest barbecue connoisseurs themselves. Both Flay and Symon sat down with Metro to give the scoop on their new show, talk about competing against each other for the first time and share some surprises audiences should look out for.

Why choose BBQ for the show— what makes this style of cooking exciting for the competition?
MS: I think a couple of things — barbecue is huge to Bobby and I both, and I don't think there is anything more Americana-style than barbecue. It's really grown nation-wide now, it used to be very regionally specific, and now you're seeing great barbecue restaurants open all over the country. The level of interest for barbecue right now is just very high. Even though it fits into one category there are a lot of different styles of it.

How did you go about finding the "pit-masters" that are competing on the show?
BF: My company actually produced the show, so we certainly scoured the country for the best barbecue experts around and we pooled from a pool of very decorated barbecue competitors.

What kind of challenges can viewers expect to see the pit-masters undergo during the competition?
BF: It's all outdoor cooking in some way, shape or form– but they range from very quick sort of backyard grilling challenges to challenges that took up to eight hours to cook a piece of meat— and everything in between. That included side dishes, sauces, or things on the grill or the smoker–it was basically everything you could do outdoors.

MS: It was fun because it ranged from backyard barbecue to really old traditional kind of barbecue techniques.

What's some of the criteria the competitors will be judged on?
BF: I think presentation at any level is important no matter what, but that doesn't mean it can't be something simply plated. I think the thing about barbecue is it's really about the presentation of the techniques of the food– things along those lines that really make your mouth water when it's put in front of you.

Why did you choose Austin for the show's location?
BF: I think that Austin, well actually Texas in general – it is considered one of the best barbecue states in the whole country. Food Network has a very big Texas following and it just felt right. The minute you cross the Texas border you can just smell the barbecue everywhere.

Overall what would you tell audiences to expect from "BBQ Brawl: Flay vs. Symon"
MS: The show offers a wide variety of things. You get to see world-class barbecue, and you also get to see two best friends having a great time while being competitive.

BF: And amazing technique— some of the best people in the business. Not us, the competitors. But, there are some smaller challenges in the episodes that will include me and Michael as well.

Catch "BBQ Brawl: Flay vs. Symon" Thursdays at 9 p.m. on Food Network

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Filmmakers Julius Onah and J.C. Lee unpack the complicated themes of 'Luce'

PAT KING
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Holding in a secret is a sensation that only the truly twisted actually enjoy. At least that's my belief on the matter. With some of the best films, the subject matter and narrative choices create a reaction inside of you that causes your mental gears to power at full speed. You can't help it, you just need to share your opinions with someone else who has witnessed what you just did. This could explain why it can be so hard to dodge spoilers on the internet for the most anticipated movies each year. With the recently released and provocative film "Luce," I feel as though I had been waiting to unload my thoughts about the film's larger themes with anyone familiar with it. As luck would have it, those people ended up being the film's writer, J.C. Lee, and director, Julius Onah. I promise, there will be no spoilers.

The film, starring Octavia Spencer, Naomi Watts, Tim Roth and Kelvin Harrison Jr. as Luce, shines a light on the quickness that it takes many of us to assign blame to individuals before understanding every angle of their story. To delve into the discussion in his original play, Lee had created the title character as a perfect conversation starter around the subjects of racial profiling and privacy. Luce is a stellar athlete and student at his Arlington, Virginia, high school, as well as a son any parent could ever wish for. His story is nothing short of miraculous as he had grown up a child soldier in a war-torn country and adopted by his newfound family. But once his politics professor reads a troubling assignment he has handed in, suspicion from those around him begins to raise questions on whether or not he may pose a threat to the school and if they have the right to quickly cast him as a villain.

"Luce." JON PACK

"I think that truth is not an objective thing," says Lee about the central question around Luce's innocence. "It is a thing that many of us have versions of and can all be accurate at the same time. I'm always interested in stories that pit one person's truth against another and not judging which one ought to be the victor in the situation. I think that is real life. Real life is people testing their arguments against one another. And, more often than not, both arguments are correct. I think it's left to us — as an audience, as a country, as a culture — to wrestle with the aftermath of that. I would say that if we as filmmakers offered you a pat solution of, 'This is the person who gets the trophy and this is the person who goes to jail,' I would say that we would be being disingenuous to the way that the world works. We were very interested in trying to make a film that represented the actual complexity of the world around these issues."

Onah could not agree more with Lee's assessment, and it's part of the reason why he convinced him to turn his play into a film in the first place. He felt it was too important a story not to have in theaters at this current moment in our nation's history.

"We're in a very heated moment right now where identity is literally in the center of every conversation we're having," chimes in Onah. "When it comes to pop culture, when it comes to politics, when it comes to sports — whatever it may be, part of the conversation we're having is, 'Who gets to be human?' From there, who gets to be 'fully human' and who gets access to the full spectrum of humanity? It feels to me, the work that needs to be done is work that happens on an individual basis for everybody. Because that truth constantly shifts. If there was a one-size-fits-all answer, we wouldn't be having the debates that we're having."

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The constant reinvention of the creative spirit KENZO TAKADA

He's considered a fashion legend, but that label does not mean that much to him.

LUZ LANCHEROS MWN
letters@metro.us

Before Kenzo Takada, Poiret evoked Orientalism. in design, the first designer approach to another culture in fashion.

But Takada definitely brought the freedom of color to *pret a porter* in the '70s, inspired by ethnicity in Western silhouettes with statement logos and textile richness in products that defied the imagination. He left his own mark on the symbols of the East, reinterpreted in a contemporary and global way, as well as that *joie de vivre* and that unique essence that he has transmitted in collaborations, his latest with global beauty brand Avon.

Kenzo went from the drama on the catwalk dosing it into his other creations. He sold his company to LVMH in 1993, retired in 1999, but with Humberto León and Carol Lim — and later Felipe Oliveira — the company's neoethnic and almost kitsch essence has been maintained (this last season inspired by Botticelli). He, on the other hand, will now be designing gowns for the new Japanese opera season that will go on tour in September and is still busy, creating perfumes (the first one released even before retiring) to express conceptually what he continues to represent in the artistic field

This is also seen in the book launched by Kazuo and Chihiro Matsui, where they gather more than 300 fashion sketches and photos from his boom era along other fashion legends like Yves St. Laurent.

Today, the 80-year-old designer launched his new perfume, "Avon Life Color" at Colombiamoda 2019. Metro talked with him about his new facet and how he sees fashion today.

How was the process of creating the book "Kenzo" that was recently launched?
My friend Kazuo Matsui wanted to make this book for the last twenty years. Since the year 2000, really, she wanted to release a book about my life, especially showing my sketches. It took a long time. She passed away a year, a year and a half ago, but she took several of my main sketches. Her daughter, Chihiro, was the one who continued with the publication of this book, which is quite personal: in fact, half of it is almost 300 sketches and the other includes my biography and my photographs. .

You have been retired from fashion for a long time, but you are no stranger to it. You have said that immediacy prevails in it today, that there are too many people. But what can you take away from it?
Today fashion is very important. 50 years ago, fashion was already important for people, but we didn't imagine it that democratized. And I don't mean just the shows, the runways, but the information, the way they work on it. To sell it.

Selling fashion today is absolutely different. Today we find that the young generations are interested in fashion and that this has become something so important, that it became necessary for life.

There were many designers, contemporaries of yours, who licensed their name in various products and got blurred in the process. What happened in your case?
What I have tried to do is work with a team with which I connect fully and work to the fullest with them. I do not know the secret so that this does not happen, but what I do particularly is to always be next to a team that does all this with me.

You were already launching perfumes even before retiring. Why continue with perfumes? Why with Avon in particular?
Yes, I have developed many perfumes. But Avon is a company that gives a lot to women throughout the world and has democratized its products, which are of high quality. This captivated me and I found it quite interesting.

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

Before we get to the Raiders preview, I should let you know about a gigantic money opportunity at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** as SugarHouse has rolled out an exclusive $500,000 Pennsylvania Pick 'em contest.

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Stetz also tells MetroBet that each player can have up to 25 entries.

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Raiders

Forget the Raiders' "Commitment to Excellence."

Now more than ever, there's a "Commitment to Interesting" in Oakland (and soon, Las Vegas).

The Raiders brought in WR Antonio Brown, OT Trent Brown, LB Vontaze Burfict, WR Tyrell Williams, LB Brandon Marshall, G Richie Incognito and S Lamarcus Joyner this offseason.

That's a lot of talent, and even more ego.

Given his work ethic, you have got to think that Jon Gruden will coach a little more modern this season than he did in his first year back in the NFL following a huge layoff. At times last year, his scheming reeked of 1998 — so much so that Cosmo Kramer should have been their mascot.

So, the Xs and Os should be better. The question is whether or not the fiery Gruden can reel in all of those big personalities.

Here's saying there will be a honeymoon period with Brown and others, and things will be marginally better from last year's disaster. But the biggest issue in taking the Over with the Raiders total at 6 wins at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** is that they have the hardest strength of schedule in the entire league. They face the Chiefs and Chargers twice per year, and will have to deal with the NFC North (Vikings, Bears, Packers, Lions). There truthfully isn't one "gimme" on their schedule.

The play: $10 at MetroBet.us/Sugar on Raiders Under 6 wins

Best Bets

Phillies at Diamondbacks

The Diamondbacks will be in good position to take the series finale against the Phillies on Wednesday when they send the newly-acquired Zac Gallen (1-3, 2.72 ERA) to the mound to face Jason Vargas (6-5, 3.93 ERA).

To bet on this game now and get up to $250 in free money, go to **MetroBet.us/Sugar** and enter promo code **METROBET**.

Gallen has turned heads in his first seven major league starts, inspiring the D-backs to send highly-touted shortstop prospect Jazz Chisholm to the Marlins at the deadline. He held two high-octane offenses in the Twins and Dodgers to three earned runs in 12 1/3 innings combined in July. The Phillies are just 22nd in runs per game on the road in 2019 at 4.52.

Vargas has pitched to an inflated 5.03 ERA in 10 starts on the road this season. Unfortunately for him, Arizona is third in the majors in batting average against lefties this season (.282) as well as OPS (.842). The Long Beach State product will have to be wary of Ketel Marte and Christian Walker, who have an OPS of 1.153 and 1.024, respectively, over their last seven games.

The play: Diamondbacks moneyline

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Sixers' Simmons claims he was 'singled out' by Aussie casino

Melbourne casino denies any discrimination against to 76ers star.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Philadelphia 76ers All-Star point guard Ben Simmons looked as though he ran into some trouble in his native Australia late Monday night.

The 23-year-old was staying at Crown Casino in Melbourne when he posted a video to his Instagram implying that he was racially profiled by security.

In the video that has since been deleted, Simmons questioned why he and two black friends were questioned by security while a white friend in the group was not.

"I find it so crazy that the only guy who doesn't get checked to go into the casino is this guy (pointing to a white male)," Simmons said. "I get checked, Mike gets checked, and [another black male] gets checked. Thank you Crown Casino."

In response, the casino released a statement defending their actions (h/t TMZ).

"Internal security policy requires our security officers to check identification of those persons they believe to be under the age of 25, this is an enhanced safeguard to ensure that no one under the age of 18 is permitted entry to the casino floor as required by law... [we] strenuously reject reports that it discriminated against a group of visitors last night."

76ers star point guard Ben Simmons ran into some trouble with an Australian casino on Monday night. GETTY IMAGES

Following the statement's release, Simmons deleted the video and took to Twitter instead.

"As you know an incident happened last night at Crown and my friends and I felt personally singled out, no one likes to feel like this," Simmons wrote. "I am very passionate about equality and I will always speak up even if it means having uncomfortable conversations."

Simmons was born in Melbourne and lived there until 2013 when he moved to the United States to attend Montverde Academy in Florida. He spent three years at the school before heading to LSU where he developed into the No. 1 pick of the 2016 NBA Draft.

The Sixers cornerstone is fresh off signing a five-year, $170 million contract extension with the franchise this summer as he prepares for his third NBA season.

He helped lead Philadelphia to the Eastern Conference semifinals, averaging 16.9 points, 8.8 rebounds, and 7.7 assists per game.

Simmons was selected to play for the Australian national team at the FIBA World Championships in China later this month but opted to skip the tournament to focus on the 2019-20 season with the 76ers.

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Red-hot Mets causing Phillies playoff odds to sink

It's been a difficult summer for the Philadelphia Phillies, a team that went from tops in the NL East to now standing on shaky ground heading into the final stretch of the season.

The Mets' hot streak following the All-Star break has throttled the New Yorkers back into the playoff race and right at the heels of the Phillies.

While Philadelphia holds a multiple-game advantage over the Mets in the standings, current form and the remaining schedule isn't doing much to help the Phillies out.

In fact, MLB analytics website Fangraphs isn't painting a rosy picture for the Phillies this October.

Let's take a look at the projected numbers as the Phils try to get through the dog days of summer:

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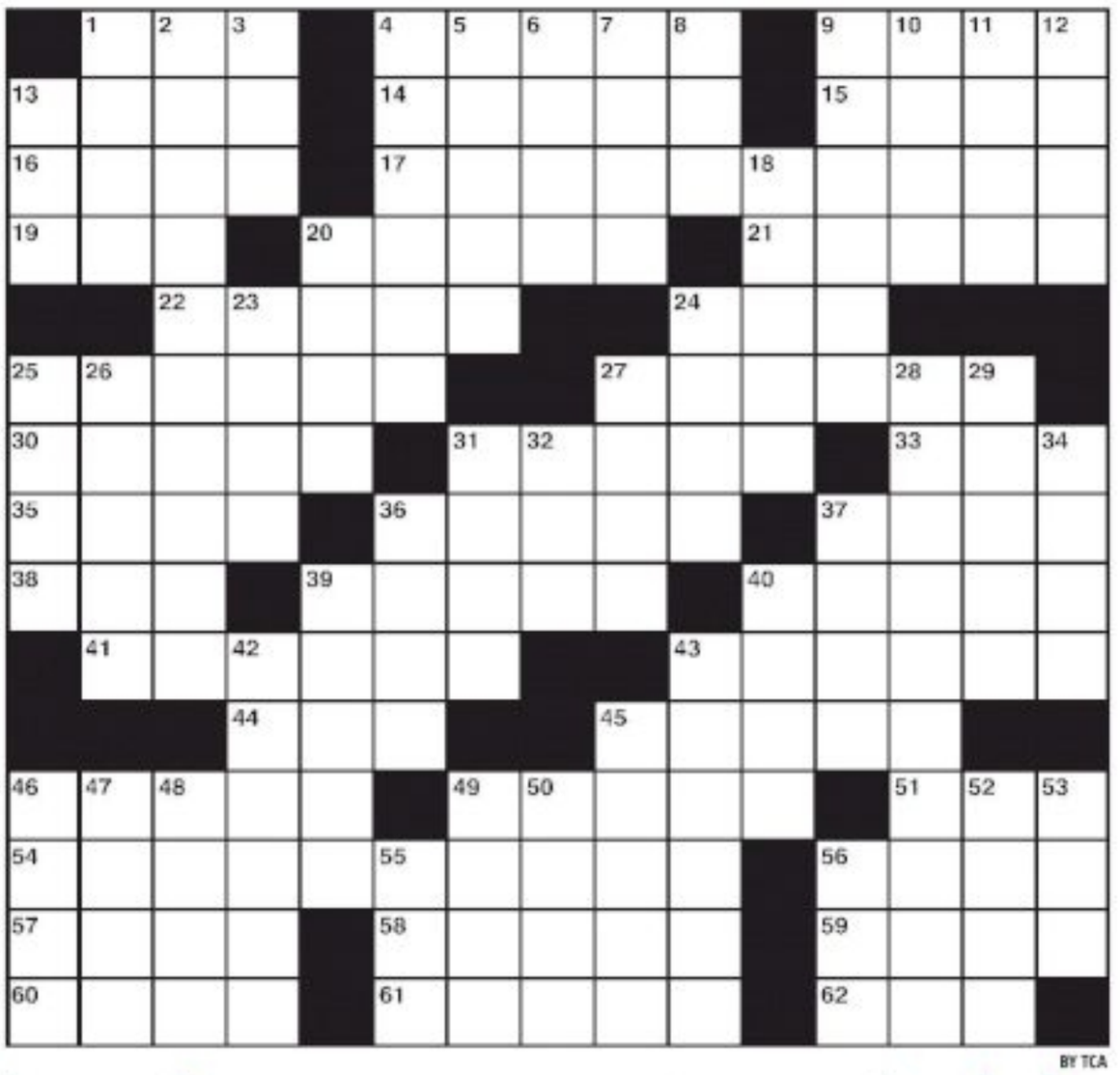
ACROSS

1 Sorrowful
4 "The Magic Flute" or "Tosca"
9 Prefix for enemy or angel
13 City in Texas
14 Role on "M*A*S*H"
15 Outdoor feast
16 __ and for all; permanently
17 Item listed in a recipe
19 "__ Willie Winkie"
20 See eye __; agree
21 Takes a nap
22 Gramm/McGraw
24 Big __
25 "If it's __ thing, it's another!"
27 Gold/Ivory
30 Demean; put down
31 "Don't __ on me"; old flag words
33 "__-a-dub-dub, three men in a tub..."
35 Unruly crowds
36 Simpletons
37 Beckoned
38 Conger or moray
39 Wander about stealthily
40 Self-confidence
41 Whispered confidence
43 Sacrificial figure
44 Tiller
45 Freight
46 Crooked
49 __ plugs; ignition starters
51 Bakery buy
54 Cash register user
56 Nourishment
57 Up in __; angry
58 Debonair; charming
59 Pulls along
60 Reasonable bedtime
61 Aggravated
62 Nation with the most immigrants: abbr.

DOWN

1 Of sound mind
2 Good enough
3 Female animal
4 Colorful songbird
5 Window pieces
6 Uptight
7 Unusual
8 "Diamonds __ Forever"; 007 film
9 Flying saucer pilots
10 Streets of Paris
11 Quitter's word
12 Shacks
13 Word of amazement
18 Terrible fear
20 Fork part
23 Role on "Bonanza"
24 Deadly snakes
25 New parents' choice
26 Woodwind instruments
27 Jailbird's quarters
28 Disloyal to one's nation
29 Lather-topped
31 Tap the horn
32 Use an oar
34 Bar order
36 Sovereign
37 Björn of tennis
39 Bows of ships
40 Yellowstone National __
42 Dairy product
43 __ down; reduced the price of
45 Sculpt
46 __ aside
47 Ganges garb
48 J's followers
49 Insulting remark
50 High point
52 Meditative exercise
53 Ames & McMahon
55 TV crime drama series
56 Common ailment



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B	R	U	C	E	P	S	N	C	A
O	H	L	D	I	N	Y	G	T	K
F	S	D	L	I	W	V	W	N	N
R	I	O	K	A	M	A	R	O	G
E	T	C	Z	Z	D	E	I	S	L
M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T	M	T
D	R	E	G	N	I	S	E	A	P
Q	B	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	L

British
Bruce
Dickinson
Eddie
Heavy
Iron Maiden
Metal
Midnight
Number
Pilot
Rock
Samson
Singer
Songwriter
Trooper

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C	Y	R
L	S	E
I	C	K

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	8		7		2		3	4
1								8
			1					
6	2		8	9	3		4	1
					5			
4								2
2	5		6		9		1	
8		1		2		4		

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B	E	N	■	B	E	E	S	■	■	R	E	S	T	S
■	■	C	R	O	S	S	■	■	F	E	Z	■	■	■
O	D	I	O	U	S	■	■	S	L	E	E	P	S	■
D	E	P	O	T	■	S	N	E	A	D	■	R	A	G
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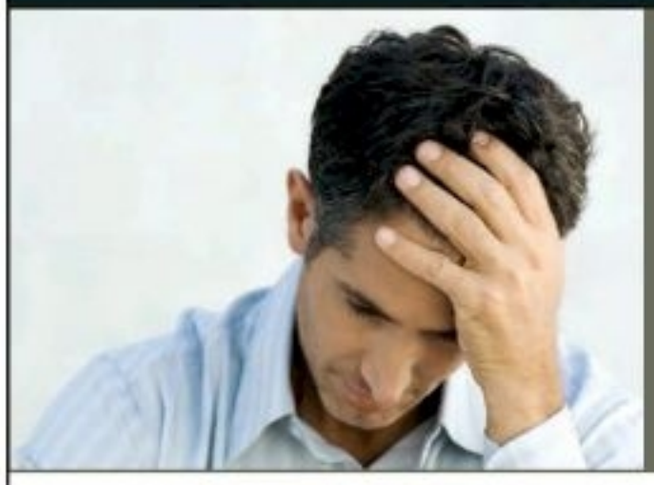

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